

PHOTO LOG

The purpose of this log is to document all photographs taken during a trip, including photographs of incidental takes (marine mammals, sea turtles and/or sea birds taken in the vessel's gear). In addition to incidental takes, photographs should be taken of sharks, sturgeons, rays, and any rare or hard-to-identify fish. Photographs are an important part of the identification process.

The exposed disposable camera must be labeled clearly with trip identifiers, dates landed, and camera number using a permanent marker. Complete a new log for each camera and if using the camera on multiple trips, use one master photo log to record all photographs. If the photographs are of an incidental take, the camera and completed photo log **MUST** be sent in with the associated trip. Photographs of other species may be sent in after multiple trips. Be sure to include the completed photo log with the camera.

For confidentiality purposes, photographs should not be taken of vessel names, vessel numbers, or crew members.

There are a few basic rules that should be followed when using the disposable cameras. Due to the simplicity of the lens, photos should be taken from a 4 ft. distance to obtain a clear photo. Photos should be taken at 90 degree angles and a spacer must be included between individual animals. A spacer can be a photo of the sea, the sky or simply holding a finger in front of the lens.

When photographing incidental takes, photograph any unusual marks and scars, new and/or healed wounds, location of gear entanglement (preferably with gear still attached), and characteristics of the animal which can be used for species identification (reference next column). Place a piece of paper with the observer/trip identifier, the animal's tag number, and the date on it next to the animal's body, and include it in every photo. **Do not cover important features of the animal's body with the paper.** If the paper is wet down, it will be less apt to blow away. If time/conditions preclude this, try to include the carcass tag (with the tag number showing) in the photograph.

Even if you are able to identify a species, photograph the animal, especially if the specimen cannot be

frozen and brought back whole. Photographs of incidental takes are always expected. The photos will be reviewed by experts for positive identification. Include an object in the photograph, *i.e.* a measuring tape, clipboard, pen, or the carcass tag, to indicate the relative size of the animal. In order to make the most of the photographs taken, use the following guidelines. This is especially important for hard-to-identify species. All animals should be photographed individually.

MARINE MAMMALS: Photograph the entire animal (with gear if present), close-up of head, any gear entanglement (including a close up of the gear), and new and/or healed wounds. Additionally:

Whales: Close-up of head (side & top), flipper and dorsal fin position & shape, fluke shape.

Right Whales: Callosities

Humpback Whales: Ventral fluke, if possible.

Belly-up floaters: Presence or absence of throat or belly grooves.

**Dolphins/
Porpoises:**

Close-up of head (side), coloration pattern on side, distinctive blazes or stripes, shape of dorsal fin.

Seals:

Whole body from above, head on, the side; whole underside; head profile, rear flippers; coat coloration pattern; teeth.

SEA TURTLES: Photograph the entire animal along with photos of the carapace and the plastron, any new or healed wounds, including a close-up of each wound with scale reference and any gear, if present. Additionally, photograph the head shape (top), and obtain a close-up of the head (top and side).

SEA BIRDS: Photograph the beak, feather color-

tion (both dorsal and ventral sides) and feet.

SHARKS: Photograph the head shape, mouth and under side of snout and gills, and placement of all fins (preferably before being cut off).

STURGEONS: Photograph the mouth and under-side of snout (showing width of mouth in relation to width of head) – most important, head shape (from side & top), anal region (for presence/absence of scutes), and all rows of lateral scutes between anal fin and caudal fin.

OTHER FISH/RAYS/CRUSTACEANS: Refer to Peterson's field guides for identifying characteristics of that species type. The guides' drawings indicate important features with small arrows.

Keep cameras away from excessive heat, moisture, salt, and vapors. Don't keep partially used disposable cameras for extended periods. Exposed color film is more susceptible to harmful influences than unexposed film, and should be forwarded for processing as soon as possible.

INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the header fields **A** and **B**, refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

1. GEAR CODE(S): Record the primary gear code used by the vessel during the trip(s) as recorded on the Vessel and Trip Information Log.

Example: 050, 100.

2. CAMERA NUMBER: Record the number you assign to the disposable camera. Start with "1" for the first camera used on this trip, and continue numbering sequentially throughout the trip for the following cameras used on this trip. Unless more than one camera is used on a single trip, this number should always be "1".

PHOTO INFORMATION

3. FRAME NUMBER: Preprinted frame numbers

are provided on the log. Record the photograph subject on the line with the corresponding frame number. The frame number is displayed on the camera.

NOTE: Disposable cameras may display the number of photographs remaining in the camera after you take a photo. Therefore, record your first photo at FRAME NUMBER 26, for 27 exposure cameras and continue listing down to 0.

4. HAUL NUMBER: Record the haul number assigned to the haul in which the photo is taken, or which corresponds to the animal being photographed, if applicable. This number must agree with the number recorded for this haul on the corresponding Haul Log.

5. TAG NUMBER(S): Record the **complete alphanumeric number** of the tag(s) that the observer attaches to the animal(s) being photographed and/or that are already on the animal(s) when taken. The tag number(s) recorded on this log must agree with the tag number(s) recorded for this animal on the Individual Animal Log, or the Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle, and Sea Bird Incidental Take Log.

Example: D05678 or A0163.

6. SUBJECT: Briefly describe the species or subject, and/or the important feature(s) in the photograph, on the line corresponding to the preprinted frame number. It is important to include the species name.

Example: Harbor Porpoise head shot showing scars.

7. OBS/TRIP ID: Record your three character Observer Identifier combined with the three character Trip Number and one character Trip Extension assigned to you for this trip.

8. DATE: Record the month, day, and year that this photo is taken.